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ON APPLYING LIGATURES TO ARTERIES. WITH A HISTORY OF  
TWO CASES.

TRANSLATED FOR THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL, FROM A LATIN MANUSCRIPT  
OF PROFESSOR PORTAL, OF PALERMO, SICILY.

THE object of applying ligatures to arteries is their obliteration; and in whatever manner this may be done, the greatest care must be, that obliteration shall be effected. Hence we must most sedulously study inflammation, as this produces in living organs effects either harmful or salutary. For by inflammation we know that parts coalesce and adhesions are effected, that ulcerations and suppurations arise, and that serous surfaces, when in contact, cohere together. We know, also, that inflammation is harmful if it exceeds certain limits; and if it is restrained within them, and does not vary from a normal state, is beneficial. But when we are treating of tying the arteries, we must venture and inquire farther; namely, what results take place upon the arteries from, or how they are affected by, inflammations of a strumous, or a venereal, or a scorbutic character, and by all other affections depending upon diatheses; and how these influence the adhesion of the arterial parietes, and the obliteration desired. We must inquire how far the economy will bear the subtraction of blood, to the end that the blood may not be too ardent, and yet may remain adequate to effect an inflammatory effusion, as of plastic lymph, which may concrete and form a cement. Also in what way and how far any vice produced in the arteries by diatheses may be corrected, so that the operation may be borne without unduly exciting and inflaming the organs, and thus may terminate favorably. In a word, a pathological condition is to be established, and a true indication, which may rest firm upon therapeutics guided by reason and experience, so that not only a successful operation, but also the end of the operation, namely, the restoration of the patient, as well as an increment for science, may be obtained.

Let not the operator here pass by any mixture of diseases by which accident may be involved; and when they may be corrected or removed, let him not proceed to the operation contrary to the indication. It is certainly matter for grief, if not for shame, that after an operation of ligature perfectly well performed, the result should be still doubtful, and that the undertaking, well commenced, should terminate fatally, when, perhaps, if the indications had been attended to, it might easily have succeeded.

Having these things in view, I have undertaken to write the history of two cases of arteries tied, which bear upon what has been said above, and ought, therefore, not to be passed by.

Two men have presented themselves to me the past year, both contaminated with the venereal poison; one suffering from popliteal aneurism, the other from hemorrhage from the femoral artery a little above its superior third. The former entirely recovered, though the aneurismal tumor in the ham had the enormous circumference of forty-two inches. But the other, whose external iliac I tied, sank miserably under subsequent hemorrhages, which could not by any means be prevented or checked. The former, however, was treated as if in a sound state, the venereal taint being almost extinguished; whereas the latter presented a habit of body altogether inauspicious, for the femoral was corroded by phagedenic ulcers, and the advancing gangrene and ulceration involving the parts concerned in the operation, caused the fatal hemorrhage. In the autopsy, however, sufficient was observed to show how much nature strives for our preservation; inasmuch as the artery was found in great part obliterated, and certainly in a state to resist the impulsion of the blood. It is therefore especially to be considered, before we come to the operation of tying, how the disease and obstacles which contra-indicate it may be removed, or at least may be so far repressed that a favorable result may be rendered probable. In men laboring under lues venerea this is particularly to be attended to; for experience has sufficiently proved to me that men of this class are especially afflicted with aneurisms, and that most usually every aneurism has its beginning in lues.

As to the method of tying, it always seemed to me dangerous to tighten the ligature strongly, since from this there arises for the most part ulceration of the artery and consequent hemorrhage. This, I think, arises from interrupting the circulation, by which the part now constricted was nourished. In order to avoid danger from this source, I always employ the double ligature for permanency, so that without strong constriction the parts may come in mutual contact, and the circulation proceeding freely, ulceration may be prevented. Nor have I deceived myself herein by reasoning; daily experience with brute animals, and with men laboring under aneurisms or arterial lesions, sufficiently declares it. Simple constriction, and this not close, lest solution of continuity should result, is in my judgment the only correct method of applying the ligature.

CASE I. C. B., from the island of Lipara, aged 20, of lymphatic temperament and moderate firmness of body, and having frequently suffered from venereal troubles, entered the hospital July 27th, 1838, on account of a tumor in the right ham, with which he had been afflicted for a month. He had before overcome venereal ulcers, buboes, hemorrhage, and pains in the joints, by mere rest and the milder therapeutic aids; and he hoped in the same way to be soon relieved from this tumor in the ham. By the advice of some physician he had applied to the tumor a liniment composed of oil of almonds, camphor and opium, but without benefit, the tumor enlarging from day to day.

In the hospital an ointment prescribed on account of the venereal troubles which had preceded, was applied, by which for two days the pains seemed to be mitigated. But the day following the pains in the ham became more intense, and the tumor still increasing and pulsating, emollient cataplasms and refrigerant drinks were administered, but in vain. Neither was any advantage derived from the extract of belladonna, nor from the water of cherry laurel, and finally the patient was transferred from the medical to the surgical department.

The surgeon who first met with him attempted to compress the tumor with bandages wet with a decoction of oak bark; by which ill-timed application the pains were aggravated, and a violent fever began to be excited. Moreover, inflammation extended itself over the greatest part of the limb, and from many discolored and livid spots there appeared to be danger that the aneurismatic tumor, which was now more than forty inches in circumference, would prove fatal by rupture. It was then that I, by invitation, visited the patient, and immediately removing all compression, that the vital motions and the respective circulations might go on freely, it appeared that ligature of the femoral artery was in the present state of things the only remedy. This, therefore, being approved of by several professors of the hospital, we immediately set about preparing the patient for the operation.

An incision of three inches was made in the triangular space near the margin of the sartorius, which was sufficient for penetrating to the aponeurosis. This I laid open, and the envelop presented itself, in which the femoral lies with its respective vein and nerve. This also was laid open, and with an eyed probe a small fillet composed of three linen threads waxed, was conveyed from within outwards. I first tied a knot, by which the popliteal ceased to pulsate at the tumor; then proceeding to the second knot, and bringing out the threads at the upper border of the wound, I dressed it with lint, which was medicated with Galen's cerate. I then bound up the wound itself, with a containing bandage of eighteen heads. The operation being thus finished, and the man laid in bed, I prescribed the utmost quiet, rigid diet, cold fomentations and cold drinks.

Scarcely an hour having elapsed after the operation, the patient suffered violent pains in the wound and the corresponding groin; he afterwards fell into a sound sleep. As he tossed about while asleep, the position of the hips becoming much altered, the artery above the ligature began to pulsate forcibly, the general circulation being also accelerated, and the face being flushed. Venesection was therefore prescribed, and loss of blood to eight ounces, followed by cold fomentations of vinegar. The venesection was followed by mitigation of the symptoms. At evening, when the extremities grew cold, they were restored to their normal temperature by warmed woollen cloths.

The day following the heat of the limb was normal, the tongue moist, but the bowels costive. Castor oil was prescribed, but excited vomiting, and drinks acidulated with cream of tartar and sweetened, were substituted. By this means copious evacuations of feces and urine were produced. At evening the pulsation of the vessels being more rapid and hard, and

a general feverish heat prevailing, we again produced a mitigation of symptoms by venesection and drinks saturated with cream of tartar. He passed a tranquil night, and slept five hours.

The third, fourth and fifth days, the temperature of the patient was elevated, and the pains about the ligature were severe. We directed tartarized drinks, which procured the expulsion of feces, which were exceedingly offensive.

Sixth day. The lint, which was filled with sanies, was removed, and the wound again dressed with lint smeared with ointment. Adhesion had now taken place at the inferior part of the wound. On the seventh or eighth day a third venesection was made, and an infusion of the leaves of digitalis was administered, which was of the greatest benefit.

Ninth day. The dressing being tinged with blood gave us some alarm; but this ceased when the blood was seen to proceed from the margin of the wound itself, and not from the artery tied. On the tenth day a kind of cicatrix was formed upon the wound, but the pulse was harder, the face flushed, and the heat great. A fourth venesection procured quiet to the patient.

The eleventh and twelfth days, the same course of symptoms. On the thirteenth day he was placed upon a new bed, and lint was applied anew. The tumor opened itself, and discharged black and excessively offensive clots; it was smeared with ointment of storax, and covered with an antiseptic poultice. On the fourteenth day, pus still more fetid flowed from the opened tumor, but the swelling of the parts involved in the operation was found subsiding; storax ointment and an antiseptic cataplasm again applied. Internally, potions with cream of tartar, and chicken broth.

Fifteenth day. The ligature was cast off, and from the tumor flowed a sanious fluid to the amount of nearly four pounds, having the color of wine lees, and exhaling a cadaverous odor. The wound was dressed as usual, and upon the part operated on was applied a bandage after the manner of Scultetus. This was sprinkled with diluted vinegar, and chicken broth directed to be given.

Between the sixteenth and eighteenth days the wound from the ligature, now almost healed, was touched in the centre with nitrate of silver. Tumor diminished. Internally ass's milk and Iceland moss were prescribed.

Nineteenth and twentieth days. The tumor discharged a more tolerable pus. A livid spot appearing upon the little toe of the right foot, was covered with an antiseptic poultice; and between the twenty-first and twenty-second a slough fell off.

Twenty-third and twenty-fourth. Three ulcers made their appearance; one upon the superior and outer part of the right foot, another upon the external malleolus, and the other at the lower third of the leg. They were dressed with storax ointment, pulv. china and camphor, and an antiseptic cataplasm.

Twenty-fifth day. The enlarged ulcers are verging to gangrene. Spontaneous dislocation of the little toe took place. The use of antiseptics, ass's milk, and Iceland moss, continued without intermission.

On the twenty-sixth day, another similar ulcer appeared at the ankle, near the internal margin of the foot.

Twenty-seventh and eighth. The wound of the operation now healed, and a cicatrix formed. The wound of the tumor appears sprinkled over with fleshy globules. The ulcers upon the leg and foot more extended and deeper; neither topical nor general remedies check their course. Excruciating pains were excited in those parts, and such swelling took place, that gangrene becoming imminent, amputation of the leg was by common consent proposed for the following day.

Thirtieth to thirty-fourth. Amputation is deferred; the state of the patient, in the mean time, being a little improved.

Thirty-fifth day. By an ill-timed movement, an application of the aqua phagedenica is made to the ulcers, which are once more aggravated. From this time all mercurial treatment was avoided, and we were contented with the mere application of Galen's cerate.

Thirty-eighth day. Application of the actual cautery was made to the ulcers, and those points being destroyed which were verging to gangrene, their color was changed to a purplish red. The following day vegetation shot forth, and at some points cuticle was formed.

On the twenty-seventh of October, and the fortieth day from the operation, the patient was cured in all respects, excepting an ulcer at the ankle, which was kept up by caries of the os calcis. This, also, we treated with the cautery, and it being rapidly healed, he soon left the hospital wholly well.

CASE II. A. B., a Panormian, aged 30, in the employment of a servant, of firm constitution, but of dissolute habits, had repeatedly been a subject of venereal buboes, and at length becoming violently affected with them, entered the great hospital of Panormo for relief. The mercurial frictions and diaphoretic pitans there administered, at first mitigated the articular pains which he almost habitually suffered on account of inveterate and neglected venereal infections. There was also an improvement in a bubo from which he was suffering in the left groin. But another bubo, which had appeared in the right groin, quickly taking on inflammation, and passing to the period of suppuration, compelled the physicians to transfer the patient to the surgical department. Being received there, the tumor was immediately covered with an emollient cataplasm until it became entirely fluctuating. Fluctuation being evident, a large incision was made, through which flowed an abundance of sanies. The wound was then dressed with lint smeared with digestive ointment. A few days having elapsed, and the ulcer becoming worse, it was moistened with the aqua phagedenica, but to no purpose, it growing rapidly worse. In this state of things, china, as a most approved antiseptic, was applied both in decoction and in powder, with the addition, moreover, of opium and camphor. But no benefit accruing from these, the house surgeon, thinking that the inguinal glands were an obstacle to cicatrization, undertook to remove them; afterwards dressing the part with lint and storax ointment.

The next day, the patient going to the water closet, and making use of some straining, perceived blood flowing from the groin. He endea-

vored, as well as he could by compression with his hands, to stop the hemorrhage; and the surgeon hastening to his assistance, and learning the state of things, without delay applied effectually compression with dry lint, which was confined by an inguinal bandage.

The great danger of this hemorrhage being perceived, in a medical council held upon so grave a case, we proposed to apply a ligature to the external iliac. While the discussion was still going on as to the necessity of this operation, the hemorrhage again appeared in a more violent and alarming form, and could not be checked until the pulse of the bloodless and almost lifeless patient had nearly vanished, and respiration was almost extinct. All doubt being then removed, that certain death would follow a third attack of hemorrhage, I proceeded, as director of the surgical establishment, to tie the iliac; which operation had been performed with us but once before.

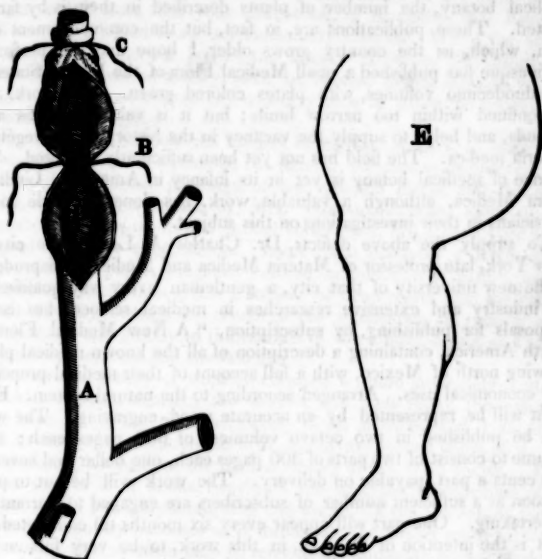
An incision of three inches being made at the lower convexity of the anterior iliac spine, above the symphysis pubis, and having made the incision through the skin and adipose layer, I then with a director ran through the various subjacent layers, the superficial fascia and the intermuscular fascia of the oblique muscles, laying bare the spermatic cord, and securing it to the superior margin of the wound; and the fascia of the transversalis now presenting, I with my fingers and a director separated the meatus, through which appears the entrance to the inguinal canal. Coming now to the epigastric and proceeding by it to its origin, I reached the internal margin of the psoas, and at length the artery itself. This I separated, and with an eyed probe passing a ligature from within outward, I tied with a first and second knot. Finally, the extremities of the ligature being fixed at the upper border of the wound, I dressed the wound itself with a tuft of lint smeared with Galen's oerate, with graduated compresses, and a bandage of eighteen heads.

The patient passed the day of the operation and the following night in a state of stupor and great debility, the pulse being smaller and the temperature lower than natural. Liquid nourishment was administered, and heat was restored to the extremities by means of heated wool.

The following day the dressing was found to be soaked with sanies. The wound was foul, and of an unfavorable aspect. The third day the dressing was tinged with blood, which proceeded from the bubonic wound. The circulation was restored in the crural artery, through the epigastric and circumflex iliac. That this circulation might be resisted, as the fungous and gangrenous condition of the wound were opposed to it, it was necessary to apply a ligature *en masse*; which being done, the patient appeared more tranquil and quiet. But it was a false tranquillity, and the insidious quiet of gangrene. Indeed, soon after, the whole region of the nates, as far as the groin and hypogastrium, was covered with livid and gangrenous patches, the pulse became smaller and intermittent, the countenance was struck with the livor of death, a cold sweat broke out, and death took place on the night of the twenty-ninth of December.

Examination of the body being made in presence of the professors of the hospital, who also had witnessed the operation, the ligature itself

was found an inch above the origin of the two collaterals of the external iliac. The artery in the situation of the ligature had formed adhesions, so far as not to allow the passage even of a bristle. The viscera enclosed in the cavity of the abdomen partly exhibited signs of deep inflammation, and partly of manifest gangrene. The artery, from the seat of the ligature to the heart, was found in a normal state; the thoracic organs and the encephalon were wholly intact.



*Explanation of the Engraving.*

- FIG. 1st. A. Primitive iliac artery.  
 B. External iliac, and situation of the ligature.  
 C. Second ligature, *en masse*, of the epigastric and circumflex arteries.  
 D D. The coagulum by which the artery was rendered impermeable and adherent.
- FIG. 2d. E. Aneurismatic tumor in the ham, having a circumference of forty-two inches.

MEDICAL BOTANY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—It affords me much pleasure to perceive that you have noticed, in your valuable Journal, "*Lee's Medical Flora of North America*," which is shortly to appear. Suffer me to give you a more

detailed account of it, for such a work is in fact a desideratum in the United States.

The works of Bigelow and Barton, with colored engravings, are most valuable, splendid and useful, and it is much to be regretted that the continuance of their publication could not be sustained. They are beautiful memorials of the state of the fine arts in our country. These works, on account of their expense, are beyond the reach of the majority of the readers for whom they were intended, and for general works on medical botany, the number of plants described in them is by far too limited. These publications are, in fact, but the commencement of a plan, which, as the country grows older, I hope may be perfected. Rafinesque has published a small Medical Flora of the United States, in two duodecimo volumes, with plates colored green. This work, also, is confined within too narrow limits; but it is valuable as far as it extends, and helps to supply the vacancy in the history of our vegetable materia medica. The field has not yet been sufficiently explored. The science of medical botany is yet in its infancy in America. Lindley's *Flora Medica*, although a valuable work, has done but little to aid physicians in their investigations on this subject.

To supply the above defects, Dr. Charles A. Lee, of the city of New York, late professor of *Materia Medica* and Medical Jurisprudence in the new university of that city, a gentleman every way qualified by his industry and extensive researches in medical science, has issued proposals for publishing, by subscription, "*A New Medical Flora of North America*, containing a description of all the known medical plants growing north of Mexico, with a full account of their medical properties and economical uses. Arranged according to the natural system. Each plant will be represented by an accurate wood engraving. The work will be published in two octavo volumes, of 600 pages each; each volume to consist of two parts of 300 pages each, one dollar and seventy-five cents a part, payable on delivery. The work will be put to press as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers are engaged to warrant the undertaking. One part will appear every six months till completed."

It is the intention of Dr. Lee, in this work, to be very full on the economical, as well as medical, properties of the plants which he will describe. He intends that the work shall be as complete as possible, and that it shall contain all that has as yet been known on the subject of which it treats. He will endeavor to procure the aid of a good analytical chemist, who will give a correct analysis of every plant. The cuts are to be executed by one of the best wood engravers in the city of New York, and will be nearly as useful, but far less expensive than those of Bigelow and Barton. He will have access to the collection of plants in the Lyceum of Natural History in New York, and to Dr. Torrey's, which are probably the largest and best in the country; and also to their libraries, which are acknowledged to be the best in the Union upon the subject. He will also have the assistance of Drs. Torrey, Gray and Beck, of New York, when wanted; also of Bigelow, of Boston; Tully, Ives and Hooker, of New Haven; several in Philadelphia, and in other places. Under such auspices, the work cannot

fail of being extensively useful; and as the price is so small, it will come within the compass and means of every physician in our country, and it is much to be hoped that it will be procured by all of them.

Dr. Lee is very favorably known as the author of several valuable communications in the *American Medical Journal*; and of *Human Physiology* for the use of Elementary Schools, a work with numerous plates, which has passed through two editions within a year. This work justly deserves and receives the approbation of the most correct judges, and I trust, like your *Class-book of Anatomy*, Mr. Editor, it will soon be adopted in all our elementary schools. When the science of the formation of our bodies, the science of life, or physiology, and the science of natural history, shall be studied in our schools, we shall expect to see more correct and useful systems of education promulgated than are now taught.

Permit me, while on the subject of medical Botany, to state that I have, not long since, examined two quarto volumes in manuscript, with one hundred elegant paintings, of the splendid plants and flowers of Cuba, in the West Indies, by Mrs. Woolstonecraft, sister of Miss Kingsbury, author of several school books, &c., and I have been highly pleased with the examination. Each plant occupies a large quarto page of letter paper, elegantly colored in imitation of nature, with an appropriate description. It is a subject of deep regret that the country is not wealthy enough to encourage the publication of such a work, which would add greatly to the renown of the United States as a patron of science, literature and the fine arts.

The natural history of tropical climates is more interesting than that of colder regions, although the subject will well repay the naturalist even here. It is the most fascinating of all sciences, and I should be glad to devote more attention to it, would my leisure allow of it. As yet we know but little of the natural history of the West Indies. What I have seen of it in books, convinces me that the investigation of the subject would be highly interesting and useful. Even the natural history of our own country becomes more interesting the farther south we travel. In proof of this we need only to refer to the immortal works of Audubon and of Wilson, in their splendid *American Ornithologies*; of our celebrated countryman William Bartram, in his travels in Florida, Georgia, &c.; of the celebrated naturalist Kalm, and many others.

Unfortunately for the science and literature of the country, we are too much engaged in the pursuit of wealth through the medium of trade and commerce, to devote a great share of attention to the fine arts. The work of Wilson was suffered to languish for the want of patronage, but it finally succeeded, and passed through three or four editions, and has covered the author with imperishable laurels. Audubon's work, which is on a more magnificent and splendid scale, would certainly have failed had it not been for the patronage of kings, nobles, and aristocratic institutions in Europe. It received but few subscriptions in America, and it is not to be wondered at, as the subscription price of it was eight hundred dollars a copy.

It is problematical whether Mrs. Woolstonecraft's work would

succeed in England. She has not said much upon the uses of the plants she has described. Medical botanies upon the same plan, with colored plates, have been the only ones which have received the patronage of the public in Europe, or in the United States, with the exception of the splendid work of Michaux on the Forest Trees of the United States. Others may have been published, but I do not recollect to have seen many except the Botanical Magazine, Sowerby & Curtis, and Woodville. The Flora Danica is one of the most splendid works on continental Europe. But of all the works which have ever appeared in Great Britain, and, I am told, in the world, on the subject of botany, "the Philosophy of Botany, or Temple of Flora, or Garden of Nature," is the most superb and splendid. It was to have been published in 100 numbers, with 550 plates, at 2s. 6d. sterling a number. Whether it was ever completed, I do not know. It was not only a splendid monument of the fine arts in Great Britain, but it added lasting renown to her science and literature.

One of the most elegant works I ever saw upon natural history, was owned by Mr. Newton, President of the Pittsfield Bank, who formerly resided several years in the East Indies. It was in folio, and embraced the subjects of ornithology, entomology, botany, &c. I was struck with the gaudy appearance of the plumage of the Indian birds, and with the beautiful butterflies of that country. The foliage and flowers of East Indian plants far surpass those of plants in this region. Red and yellow are the predominant colors of the flowers. This work was all done by hand, without the aid of plates, by East Indian artists. It cost several hundred dollars, and was too dear for publication.

In my courses of lectures the ensuing fall, at Hanover, and at the Willoughby University in Ohio, upon medical botany and materia medica, I shall be able to show the classes more than three hundred paintings of medical plants, accurately drawn, principally from nature, besides dried specimens carefully preserved.

*Deerfield, Mass., July 23, 1839.*      STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M.D.

#### PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with a desire expressed in your Journal a few weeks back, for information in regard to our different medical institutions, I herewith forward to you some items relative to the Pennsylvania Hospital, extracted from their different official reports.

*Philadelphia, July 22, 1839.*

Respectfully,      G.

*Attending Physicians.*—Benjamin H. Coates, M.D.; George B. Wood, M.D.; Thomas Stewardson, M.D.

*Attending Surgeons.*—Thomas Harris, M.D.; Jacob Randolph, M.D.; George W. Norris, M.D.

*Physicians to the Lying-in Department.*—Charles Lukens, M.D.; Hugh L. Hodge, M.D.

*Resident Physicians.*—J. Forsyth Meigs, M.D.; Alfred Stille, M.D.

The physicians and surgeons of this hospital render their aid gratuitously. Students of medicine who attend the practice of the hospital pay a fee of ten dollars each for the privilege, which fees are devoted to the foundation and endowment of a medical library, which now consists of about seven thousand volumes, comprising a large proportion of the most valuable ancient and modern works on the science of medicine, with many rare treatises on botany and other branches of natural history. Students have the privilege of using this collection while attending the hospital practice.

The average number of patients maintained in the hospital during the past year, has been 210, of whom 101 were pay, and 109 poor patients.

Of the poor patients admitted in this year, 266 were persons who had sustained accidental injury, received without security, and treated at the expense of the institution. Of this description were also 22 of the cases remaining in the hospital at the close of the preceding year.

The patients treated in the hospital during the last ten years have been as follows.

|                              | Poor. | Pay. | Total. |
|------------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Official year ending in 1830 | 782   | 561  | 1343   |
| 1831                         | 724   | 622  | 1346   |
| 1832                         | 700   | 673  | 1373   |
| 1833                         | 699   | 592  | 1291   |
| 1834                         | 702   | 512  | 1214   |
| 1835                         | 760   | 464  | 1224   |
| 1836                         | 748   | 495  | 1243   |
| 1837                         | 695   | 483  | 1178   |
| 1838                         | 759   | 487  | 1246   |
| 1839                         | 740   | 428  | 1168   |

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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, AUGUST 7, 1839.

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### A TREATISE ON THE EYE.\*

DR. WILLIAM C. WALLACE, of New York, the author of this compact, yet comprehensive little work, has been revising and correcting the first edition with commendable care, and the second now embodies the latest discoveries in the anatomy of the visual organs. He traces the mechanism through a series of animals, in a manner very plain even to those unacquainted with the language of anatomists. The eyes of the halibut, turtle, rhinoceros, lobster, &c., are not only very successfully drawn, but they also explain that system of graduated mechanism by which the

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\* A Treatise on the Eye, containing discoveries of the causes of near and far-sightedness, and of the affections of the retina, with remarks on the use of medicines as substitutes for spectacles. By William Clay Wallace, Oculist. Second edition. New York: Samuel Colman, Astor House. 1839.

various orders of animals are fitted to their destined localities, at once interesting to the general student and to the christian philosopher, and are amongst the most beautiful examples of design in the organization of the animal frame. Perhaps the physiologist will derive as much profit from the chapter on the fibres of the retina, and the doctor's observations on the apparatus by which the eye is adjusted to distances, as from any others in the work. The function assigned to the ciliary processes, however, must not be overlooked in our admiration of other topics.

For the last two or three years we have occasionally heard of the advances which Dr. Wallace had made in unfolding the obscure anatomy of the eye; but hardly credited it all, knowing that in the ardor of scientific investigation men of the greatest powers of discrimination are frequently deceived by their own imaginations, even when the most indefatigable in the pursuit of truth. For ourselves, we have no longer a remaining doubt upon the subject; that he has made new and important discoveries, and therefore essentially accelerated the progress of science, cannot be questioned by those who carefully compare his dissections with the other latest publications on the same subject.

It is one of the gross mistakes of approaching age, that people at such times imagine a necessity for spectacles, when, in fact, in eighty cases out of a hundred, the eye-sight is positively injured by them. If we tamper with our eyes, and interpose glasses between the cornea and the object, a re-modification and re-adjustment of the parts within necessarily follow—and when this new arrangement has once been established, it is no easy matter to restore the organs to their former primitive condition. Age brings with it a relaxation of the tension of all the tissues, and the eye suffers temporarily with the entire system, but soon reacts, having within its own constitution a principle of adaptation, according to the circumstances, habits and condition of the individual. From forty-five to fifty, a period when glasses are erroneously supposed indispensable, were they not resorted to at all, although there be a defective vision at the former focal distance, in reading, for example, the sight would soon begin to improve, and finally, to all intents and purposes, in a majority of instances, would be re-established. It is a law, and strange it is that its indications are not more observed, that the eye, at every period of life, will accommodate itself to the wants and necessities of the individual—provided it is not artificially deranged. Imperfect vision, the evils of near-sightedness, and the misfortune of not seeing distinctly in old age, were never heard of as being universal till opticians had become numerous. We do not deny the utility of spectacles after they have once been resorted to; but we perfectly agree with Dr. Wallace in saying that they are rarely necessary. Near-sighted children are often kept in that state through life by being early furnished with concave spectacles. Withhold them altogether, and the eye would, in exact obedience to the laws of its organization, adapt itself to the labor required. But when the glasses are once put on, they must ever after be retained.

Incalculable injury has been the result of the fashionable folly of wearing quizzing glasses. Both gentlemen and ladies, in the spring tide of youth, whose eyes are without a single defect, peep through these useless appendages of supposed gentility, till a permanent and incurable difficulty ensues, which time has no power to correct, which consists in a want of agreement in the focus of the two organs. Unless the surface on which the image impinges on the retina perfectly agree in both eyes, there will

be distorted and indistinct vision—such as this kind of object or prospect glasses produces.

Agreeing, as we do, in all the essentials with Dr. Wallace, and according to him the praise he merits as a philosopher and practical oculist, we are equally frank in saying that the medicine he prescribes as a substitute for spectacles appears to us, from his own reasoning, to be just as useless as the glasses. Let the eye *entirely alone*, is the doctrine we hope will yet be, as a general rule, everywhere promulgated.

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*Preservation of the Teeth.*—Daniel Mann, M.D., an operative dentist, who, judging from the character of his writings, is conversant with the minutest details of the profession in which he is engaged, has produced a little pamphlet under the title of "*A Treatise on the Preservation of the Teeth, for the use of Families*," deserving both the attention and patronage of those for whom it was ostensibly prepared. It is systematically portioned off into sections, under the natural divisions "*of the neglect of the teeth, and its consequences; the value of the teeth; the structure of the teeth and the manner in which they become diseased; the means of preventing decay of the teeth; the means of arresting the progress of decay.*" Next, the doctor gives rules for preventing imposition; and, finally, brings the essay to a close by sensible remarks on the qualifications of a dentist, on artificial teeth, &c. This is sufficient to show what particular topics have especially been the subject of the writer's deliberations. It is a pity that there are not one hundred pages instead of twelve—families would then be more likely to purchase, to read, and to place confidence in it. The intention was laudable, to make a book on a scale so economical that everybody could afford to take important advice from its pages. We think exceedingly well of the pamphlet, though it makes no pretensions to originality, nor was it designed for those already learned in morbid anatomy.

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*Rules for Exploration of the Chest.*—Our readers are especially referred to the papers in the three last numbers of the Journal, by Dr. Bigelow, one of the professors in the medical department of Harvard University, whose rank in the profession gives great weight to anything which he has leisure for communicating to his professional brethren. We look upon these Rules, a title which Dr. Bigelow has been pleased to give them, as the very best guides for the young practitioner extant. There is nothing in them obscure or hard to be understood; on the contrary, the simplicity and accuracy with which he teaches us how to proceed, entitle him to our sincere thanks for the pains he has taken to instruct us. We are by no means alone in this opinion. It has been suggested that if the whole were republished in a compact pamphlet form, it would be sought at the book stores with avidity.

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*Maryland Medical and Surgical Journal.*—After an interim of some years, the physicians of Maryland have awoken from a long slumber, and now propose a quarterly journal, at \$2 50 a year, under the patronage of the faculty of Maryland. We remember when Dr. Geddings sent forth from Baltimore an excellent monthly Journal, the death of which, in the midst of so much medical talent, excited surprise. An editorial committee

has been chosen, consisting of Drs. G. C. M. Roberts, Nathaniel Potter, James H. Miller, R. A. Durkee, J. R. W. Dunbar, and S. G. Baker. Each number is to contain at least one hundred and twenty pages, and occasionally to be embellished with engravings and portraits of distinguished members of the profession. Dr. Miller is professor of anatomy and physiology in the Washington Medical College, and Dr. Dunbar fills the chair of surgery in the same institution. These names are recommendations which would give character to any work. We wish the projectors good success in their undertaking.

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*Editorial Courtesy.*—In the number of the London Medical Gazette for March 23d, 1839, is a part of Dr. Hayward's valuable report of the surgical cases treated in the Massachusetts General Hospital, which first appeared in this Journal. It is so introduced as to have every appearance of being an original communication to that work, and no more of it was copied than was found perfectly convenient, as though it were an ephemeral affair. All this is abominable, even if it was copied from the pamphlet edition of the report; and if not, the editor, of course, should have given credit to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

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*Wants.*—Those who have kindly furnished us with circulars, and the various annual publications of schools, hospitals, medical societies, dispensaries, &c., in the several States, will please accept our thanks. Still, there are States from which no such papers have been received, which are the following, viz., South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland and Vermont. Gentlemen residing in either of these, by forwarding such pamphlets, provided they are sent immediately, will confer a marked favor.

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*Puncture of the Bladder.*—Dr. Lewis, of Boston, punctured the bladder, through the rectum, in a neighboring town, the other day, and the success of the operation, together with its simplicity, induces us to make a record of the circumstance. The necessity of the operation arose from a severe inflammation of the urethra, which rendered it impossible to draw off the urine by that passage. The patient was bled locally and generally, took antimonials and saline cathartics, and in 24 hours was enabled to discharge the urine through the natural aperture.

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*College of Physicians and Surgeons, Fairfield, N. Y.*—By the new circular, it is obvious that the faculty are making active preparations for the lecture term. It will be recollected that Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, so well known for his researches on medical jurisprudence, holds a chair in this institution. Dr. F. H. Hamilton, of Auburn, has the chair of surgery. He is a man of energy, originality, and indomitable perseverance. Drs. Hadley, McNaughton and Delamater, with whose names and attainments the western country is familiar, still remain.

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*University of New York.*—A correspondent informs us that no medical appointments will be made at present. It will be recollected that a most formidable faculty was created last season; but the ill treatment meted

out to the gentlemen, obliged them to resign with feelings of disgust. Although Columbia College, also located in the same city, has, by right of charter, authority for electing a faculty of medicine, it has been decided, after mature deliberation, not to do it.

*Dr. Hale's Anniversary Discourse.*—A copy of Dr. Hale's discourse on typhoid fever was received after the materials for this day's Journal were prepared. Next week it will have a place. In the meantime we are much obliged to the donor for his polite attention.

*Medical Miscellany.*—Since the first of April, down to July, not a single death had occurred in Pensacola, which has a population of 2300.—Dr. Bernland, of Larrica, in Germany, is the inventor of a new process of making leather out of refuse animal substances. In the course of the process the substance is in a fluid state, which is afterwards manufactured into boots and shoes.—The whole number of deaths in London from Dec. 1837, to Dec. 1838, was 18,266; males, 9,115, females 9,151. Under 2 years of age, 4,363. Of consumption, 2,236; by suicide, 27.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending August 3, 27. Males, 16—females, 11.  
Of consumption, 2—dropy on the brain, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 3—croup, 1—decline, 1—old age, 1—scarlet fever, 1—hooping cough, 1—diarrhea, 1—drowned, 2—infantile, 2—child-bed, 1—dysentery, 2—throat distemper, 1—cholera morbus, 1—canker, 1—fits, 1—liver complaint, 1—cancer, 1—cholera infantum, 1—stillborn, 3.

#### JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.

Session of 1839-40.

The regular Lectures will commence on the first Monday of November. The following are the professors in the order of their appointment:—

1. JACOB GREEN, M.D., Professor of Chemistry.
2. SAMUEL MCCLELLAN, M.D., Professor of Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children.
3. GRANVILLE S. PATTISON, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.
4. JOHN REVERE, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Physic.
5. ROSELEY DUNGLISON, M.D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.
6. ROBERT M. HUSTON, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.
7. JOSEPH FANCOAST, M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Surgery.

On and after the 1st of October the dissecting rooms will be kept open, and the Professor of Anatomy will give his personal attendance thereto. Lectures will likewise be delivered regularly during the month on various branches, and opportunities for clinical instruction will be afforded at the Philadelphia Hospital under the Professor of Institutes of Medicine; and at the dispensary of the college under the Professors of Physic and Surgery.

Fee for each professor for the whole course, \$15. Graduation fee, \$30.

Aug 7—4N1

JOHN REVERE, M.D., *Dean of the Faculty.*

#### MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.

The Lectures in this Institution will commence on Thursday, October 3, 1839, and continue sixteen weeks.

- BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, M.D. LL.D., Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology.  
ELI IVEY, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.  
WILLIAM TULLY, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.  
JONATHAN KNIGHT, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.  
TIMOTHY P. BEEZER, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics.  
CHARLES HOOKER, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

The fees, which are required in advance, are \$12 50 for each course, except that on obstetrics, which is \$6. The matriculation fee is \$5, and the contingent bill for the course on chemistry, \$3 50. The expense of a full course, therefore, is \$76. There is no expense for dissection fee, and for a reasonable price students are furnished with as many subjects as they may require. The lecture and dissection rooms are spacious and commodious, and the various cabinets are richly supplied. The graduation fee is \$15.

CHARLES HOOKER, *Secretary.*

Yale College, August 1, 1839.

Aug 7—8t

#### NEW MEDICAL BOOK.

DISEASES OF THE UTERUS; a series of Clinical Lectures, delivered at the Hospital La Pitié, by M. Lisfranc, and edited by H. Pauls, M.D. Translated from the French by G. Henry Lodge, M.D.

See notice of this work in Medical and Surgical Journal July 54.  
It is handsomely printed in 8vo., 500 pages, and price only \$1 75. Published by William D. Ticknor, corner of Washington and School streets, Boston.

Aug 7—

### THOMPSON'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF PROLAPSUS UTERI, &c.

In offering his instrument to the faculty, Dr. Thompson would call their attention to the following statements, and request all interested to examine the article in the hands of his agents.

*Extract of a letter from the late Professor Eberle, to the Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents, &c., dated*

Cincinnati, May 11, 1837.—"I have carefully examined the new Uterine Truss invented by Dr. Robert Thompson, of Columbus, in this State, and I can confidently declare, that it is unquestionably the most perfect and useful instrument of the kind, that has ever been offered to the public. It differs essentially in its construction, from the Uterine Truss contrived by Dr. Hull, and is, in all respects, a far superior instrument."

See, also, "The Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences."

Professor McClelland, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., declared, upon examining the instrument, that "every word of Dr. Eberle's opinion is true." Professors Channing and Hayward, of Boston, expressed like opinions.

*Extract of a letter from Prof. Sewall to Prof. Bigelow, dated*

1834 May, 1837.—"Dr. Thompson will be pleased to show you a Uterine Truss which he has invented, of very superior structure to anything we have."

*Extract of a letter from Prof. Peisette to Dr. Thompson, dated*

Columbus, Jan. 19, 1838.—"Your instrument, it appears to me, is formed on principles more enlarged, than those hitherto recommended for the same end, and mechanically different. I would cheerfully recommend its adoption by our professional brethren generally."

For sale in Boston by Theodore Metcalf, apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row. Price, \$15.

June 13—17

### ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

This Institution received its charter from the Legislature of the State during the past winter, and commenced operations with a class of sixty-five students; thirteen of whom received the degree of Doctor in Medicine at the close of the session. The college edifice and its accommodations; the museum, theatre, dissecting rooms and laboratory, are all on a scale of magnitude and excellence equal, it is believed, to those of any similar institution in the country.

Choice and extensive collections of anatomical specimens and morbid preparations, with cabinets of materia medica, botany, mineralogy, geology, and zoology, together with casts, plates, drawings, models, instruments and apparatus for illustrating the different departments of study, have all been provided and arranged in the museum of the college, which will be open for the inspection of students during the lecture term.

The ensuing session will commence on Tuesday, October 1st, 1839, and continue sixteen weeks. The faculty consists of the following gentlemen.

ALBION MARCH, M.D., President of the Faculty, and Professor of Surgery.

EDMUND ENMONS, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Natural History.

DAVID M. REESE, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

JAMES H. ARMSBY, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.

DAVID M. McLACHLAN, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.

GUNNING S. BEDFORD, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics.

THOMAS HUN, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.

AMOS DRAN, Esq., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

The fee for all the courses is \$70. Matriculation fee, \$5. Graduation fee, \$20. Price of boarding, from \$3 50 to \$3 50 per week. For further particulars inquire of either of the gentlemen of the Faculty.

Albany, July, 1839.

Jy 17—40

JAMES H. ARMSBY, Registrar.

### GENEVA MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The Medical Lectures will commence on the 1st Tuesday of October and continue sixteen weeks.

Institutes and Practice of Medicine, by . . . . .

T. SPENCER, M.D., Geneva.

Obstetrics and Materia Medica, by . . . . .

C. B. COVENTRY, M.D., Utica.

Anatomy and Physiology, by . . . . .

JAMES WEBSTER, M.D., Rochester.

Surgery, by . . . . .

D. L. RODGERS, M.D., Geneva.

Chemistry, by . . . . .

WILLIAM USHER, M.D.

Medical Jurisprudence, by the Professors of Chemistry and Anatomy.

THOMAS SPENCER, M.D., Registrar.

C. B. COVENTRY, M.D., Dean.

Geneva, July 18, 1839.

Jy 31—40

### BROWN'S PATENT SELF-INJECTING APPARATUS.

THE undersigned respectfully calls the attention of medical practitioners to a newly invented instrument, which is for sale at his store, No. 481 Washington street, corner of Elliot street. If physicians would examine the principles of its construction, they would appreciate its usefulness, and would probably be induced to recommend it very generally in their practice. Physicians, druggists, and the inhabitants of Boston, are particularly invited to look into the superiority of this article over the inventor's former instrument, as it now has the advantage of Goodyear's new India Rubber, which is allowed by all to be an entirely different article from that formerly manufactured.

Feb. 6—copy

WILLIAM BROWN.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAFF, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$5.00 a year in advance, \$5.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$4.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.

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